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FLOOR DEBATE

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as handling corn. They can stop using corn for ethanol. They use that because of the heavy federal subsidy, not for what ethanol sells for at the pump. They count on the subsidy. And when the day is reached when blending ethanol with gasoline does not give them an increase over what they would get from just the straight gasoline, they're not going to blend it. And they'll let the 54 cent subsidy go by the boards because it's cheaper and more...it's more productive profitwise for them to sell their product without the ethanol. They'll get more if they don't blend it just to get the 54 cent a gallon subsidy. You all, what you're arguing doesn't make economic sense.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Time. Senator Baker. Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I...I rise in opposition to the Chambers amendment we're debating now. But back to the larger issue and that's ethanol being an inferior products as Senator Chambers claims, and I have never said that. When we were debating LB 75 here with my seatmate, it's not an inferior product; it's a superior product to standard fossil fuel; it's higher energy, burns cleaner, it's a renewable resource and so on and on and on. Where we were in agreement on LB 75 I think I forewarned Senator Chambers, you better savor that moment, because I was going to be on the other side of the fence on this one and I am. As the price of fossil fuels goes up, ethanol is going to become more economic. We have no guarantees that they're going to continue to go up, so we need to help these people. Sutherland, out there, has been through some troubling times; they have good people out there now; they have the plant running. They've earned the credits and why should we discriminate against them? We go back to the old goose and the gander thing, we did it for everyone else, what are we talking about? The only plant in western Nebraska here and we're trying to cut back their incentives that they have earned, and the corn growers are willing to support and so on, et cetera. So there's a big difference here between the two ethanol bills. Senator Wehrbein alluded to that a little bit ago. There's nothing wrong with ethanol. And as the price of fossil fuels goes up it's going to become more and more competitive, we're going to sell more and more at the retail level. The good old free market is going to work, and that's